HF Happenings 407

May 2010

SARL Youth Day Sprint 16 June
SARL Top Band QSO Party 17 – 20 June

SA amateur radio development trust recognizes three radio amateurs for contribution to the hobby

On Monday last week, the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust presented three radio amateurs with awards recognising their contribution to the hobby. The presentations took place during a gala lunch held at the Midrand Protea Hotel. The guest speaker was the well known Scenario Planner and author, Clem Sunter.

The Garth Milne Technology award was presented to Jan-Albert Koekemoer, ZS1JAK, for his unstinting work on SumbandilaSat and in particular to get the Amateur payload fully operational soon after launch. SO67, as the amateur radio payload on SumbandilaSat is known, has already created worldwide interest. During the past few weeks, Jan-Albert has been working on new software that will allow the transponder to remain on for the 15 minute pass making it easier for radio amateurs using hand-held antennas to operate through the satellite. SO67 operation schedules will soon be published on www.amsatsa.org.za.

The Nokia Siemens Network Radio Amateur of the Year Award was presented to Eddie Leighton, ZS6BNE. Eddie was recognised for his efforts in popularizing satellite activity in South Africa and taking the "rig in sack" concept to RaDAR - Rapid Deployment Amateur Radio promoting field operation with the objective to set up a portable station in the shortest possible time.

The Nokia Siemens Networks Amateur Radio Community Service award was bestowed on Dr Lee-Anne Mc Kinnell, ZS2LAW, for her work in the field of space weather and how it affects amateur radio, in initiating the 40 metre beacon project, which in its revised form will be rolled out later this year, and her support of the Radio Technology in Action programme. Unfortunately, Lee-Anne could not attend and her mother, Lyn Willescroft, received the award on her behalf.

In congratulating the winners, Thobi Mkhize, of Nokia Siemens Networks, said NSN was proud to be associated with the awards programme and the work for which the recipients were recognized. She said that it is important that excellence is recognized. As amateur radio is a powerful activity to influence young people to take up careers in the electronics and communications sector, Thobi urged all radio amateurs to adopt a young person with the objective of involving him or her in the hobby.

The Radio Amateur of the year awards are annually sponsored by Nokia Siemens Networks.

The SA Amateur Radio Development Trust also presented a certificate of appreciation to Multisource for their support of the Amateur Radio Innovation Project, which was launched earlier this year.

"Innovation in Amateur Radio" is an eighteen-month project aimed at promoting innovation in Amateur Radio. Radio amateurs and technologists are invited to submit projects that will innovate amateur radio whether it is software, amateur radio and the Internet, the development of compact HF antennas for flat and complex dwellers or innovation in Emergency Communications.

More about the awards and the innovation project on www.amateurradio.org.za.

VOACAP Goes Online

Jari, OH6BG, informs OPDX, "I am glad to inform that making point-to-point HF propagation predictions is now easier than ever as VOACAP Online http://online.voacap.com has been opened to the public. The service uses VOACAP (Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program) which is arguably one of the best HF prediction engines available on the market today.

VOACAP Online is free to all and makes using VOACAP a no-brainer. Just enter the coordinates of the transmitter and the receiver, and that is all. To find the coordinates, you can use the Google Maps based QTH Locator at http://www.voacap.com/qth.html

The prediction is given as a 'circuit reliability' graph that shows the probability of achieving a CW-grade transmission quality between the transmitter and the receiver. VOACAP Online is brought to you by Jari Perkiomaki, OH6BG, James Watson, HZ1JW, and Juho Juopperi, OH8GLV."

Pedestrian Portable HF DXing

Roger, G3XBM, has produced a useful page devoted to pedestrian portable HF operation. It covers the equipment you will require, the type of locations to try, operating techniques and the results you can expect.
Visit http://sites.google.com/site/g3xbmqrp/Home/portable

QRP in the Country!

This will be a real radio field day! In addition, a good idea for a club activity!

QRP in the Country is a new event which is being held at the farm of Tim Walford, G3PCJ, at Long Sutton, Langport, Somerset TA10 9NJ on 18 July and all radio enthusiasts are welcome. Entry is free! Homebrew radio is the theme! Gate opens at 10 am. There will be many attractions, including:-
Special event station GX3CMH/P operating SSB, CW and AM on 40 and 80 m
G3GC replica 1935 CO/PA 807 TX and associated RX, VFO, modulator etc.
WS 19 HF sets and WS17 VHF 6m operational on phone/CW.

May 2010
ZS10WCS operated by the Rietkol ARC

24 Closing date AWA Valve logs
25 Africa Day – Namibia
26 SARL Club CW Contest
28/30 WIA Centenary weekend
29 RTA, Durban; CQ WW WPX CW
30 CQ WW WPX CW; Comrades Marathon
31 World No Tobacco Day

June 2010
1 – 11 ZS10WCS operated by the members of PEARS ARC
12 – 21 ZS10WCS operated by Rietkol ARC
22/6 – 1/7 ZS10WCS operated by Northern Cape ARC

2 closing date SARL 80 m Club CW contest
4 International Day of innocent Children
5 World Environmental Day
7 Closing date ZS4 logs
9 Schools Close
14 World Blood Donor Day
15 World Awareness Day of Abuse of Older People
16 Youth Day; SARL Youth Day Sprint
17 World QRP Day
17 - 20 SARL 160 metre QSO Party
20 Father's Day
20/6 – 8/7 Grahamstown Festival
21 Winter Solstice
25 – 27 Ham Radio, Friedrichshafen
26 – 27 ARRL Field Day
27 SARL Digital Contest

"In the arena of human life, the honours and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action." Aristotle

Informal home built competition – bring your entries please!
Construction and advice clinic.
Displays of Walford Electronic kits
Display of antique domestic radios
Award of Bath Buildathon Competition prize by Rob Mannion, G3XFD, editor of Practical Wireless.
Competitions, with Bring and Buy stalls
Several West Country Club stalls with PW and the RSGB in attendance
Farm tours (1 mile walk) led by Tim's wife Janet
Local food (barbeque) and beer for sale

In the event of poor weather, all will be under cover in the cattle sheds! For further information please contact Tim, G3PCJ at walfor[at]globalnet.co.uk. The Somerset Range of kits can be seen at www.users.globalnet.co.uk /~walfor

Results of the 2009 CQ WW RTTY Contest

The results of the 2009 CQ WW RTTY Contest were published in the May 2010 issue of CQ Amateur Radio. The Eastern Cape is well represented in the results.

Barry, ZS2EZ, made 514 108 points in the high power all band class.
Johan, ZS2I, made 58 225 points in the low power all band class
Thian, ZS2Y, made 8 820 points in the low power 15 metre class. Jacques, ZS1JY made 231 points in the low power 20 metre class.

ZS8M, Marion Island

Pierre, ZS1HF, on Marion Island (AF-021), has been very active on 20 and especially 17 metres this past week. He has also been reported on 40 and 15 metres. Best times to watch are between 06:30 – 10:00 UTC and various other times. Frequencies he has been on are: 7 140, 14 200 – 14 225, 14 243, 18 150 and 21 266 kHz.

African DX

Senegal 6V7. Operators Silvia, EA1AP, Juanjo, EA1CJ, Alberto, EA1SA, and Raul, EA5KA, will be active as 6V7W between 24 and 31 July. The team will try to have three stations on the air at the same time. Activity will be on 160 - 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. There will be a special emphasis on the 6 metres band (Grid Locator IK14ll). Suggested frequencies are:
CW - 1 824, 3 527, 7 027, 10 117, 14 027, 18 077, 21 027, 24 897, 28 027 and 50 100
SSB - 1 840, 3 790, 7 060, 14 190, 18 140, 21 290, 24 940, 28 490 and 50 110
RTTY – 3 590, 7 040, 10 145, 14 085, 18 105, 21 080, 24 920 and 28 080 kHz
QSL via EA5KA - Raul Blasco Villarroya, PO Box 20, 12080 Castellon, Spain. They plan to have logs online during the operation. Visit the 6V7W web page at http://6v7w.dxciting.com

Mayotte, FH8. Lionel, F5PSA/TJ3SL, will be active as FH8ND from Mayotte (AF-027) for three months starting 23 May. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB. He usually likes 20 and 17 metres. QSL via F1OKV.

Special Event Stations

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France, TM6. Arnault, F4GAJ, will use the special call sign TM6OVE between 5 and 19 June. Activity is to commemorate "Operation Overlord" (the code name for the invasion of western Europe during World War II by Allied forces) on 6 June 1944. QSL F4GAJ, direct or by the Bureau. For more information on "Operation Overlord," visit Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Overlord

Pirate

Oops, the information on the SARL Forum was wrong. The call of Des is Z21GH and not Z21J, Des, Z21GH, has asked that all radio amateurs be informed of a pirate station on the air using the call sign Z25AZ. The station was heard on 40 metres on 15 May.

I see a few messages on the forum about intruders on 40 metres. While there is no problem mentioning it there, how about making a recording of the station, noting the date, time and frequency and sending that to the SARL Councillor for the IARU Monitoring Service, Fred, ZS1FCS.

ZK3T was active on CW in December 2009 and announced DK8JB as his QSL manager. After the first QSLs arrived at DK8JB, he stated that he could not answer those requests because this was the work of a pirate.

Club News

The Potchefstroom ARC is planning a Flea Market starting at 10:30 on Saturday 5 June 2020. The venue is the ZERABI Reception Centre located directly adjacent to the N12 highway approximately half-way between Klerksdorp and Potchefstroom.

　　　　Admission is free. No table fee will be charged so come and sell your items. Braai facilities, braai packs, hotdogs, refreshments and a cash bar is available. Sleepover facilities are also available. Come and enjoy your self. Contact Stef, ZS6AOK, at 082 773 5297 for more information.

Contest Calendar

　　　　This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 17 to 24 May 2010.

SKCC Sprint
00:00 UTC-02:00 UTC 26 May
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; Bonus Points: 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; Bonus

Points: 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 May 2010
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/sks-submit.html
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:

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http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/

NCCC Sprint Ladder
02:30 UTC-03:00 UTC 28 May
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40 and 20 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 May 2010
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

CQ WW WPX CW Contest
00:00 UTC 29 May to 23:59 UTC 30 May
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band – QRP, Low or High – Tribander or Rookie; Single Op Single Band – QRP, Low or High – Tribander or Rookie; Single Op Assisted All Band – Low or High – Tribander or Rookie; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi
Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours with off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Op: 48 hours
Max power: HP: 1 500 watt; LP: 100 watt; QRP: 5 watt
Exchange: RST and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 6 points per 160, 80 and 40m QSO with different continent; 3 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with different continent; 2 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per QSO with same country
Exception: QSO points double for NA-NA QSOs with different country
Multipliers: Prefixes once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 27 June 2010
E-mail logs to: cw[at]cqwpx[dot]com
Mail logs to: CW WPX Contest, CQ Magazine, 25 Newbridge Rd, Suite 405, Hicksville NY 11801, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm

ARCI Hootowl Sprint
20:00 – 24:00 local 30 May
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: All Band; Single Band; High Bands; Low Bands
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and ARCI no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with ARCI member; 4 points per non-member QSO with different continent; 2 points per non-member QSO with same continent
Bonus: 5000 points if you operate portable using battery power and a temporary antenna
Multipliers: States, once per band; VE Provinces, once per band; Countries, once per band
Power Mult: >5 W = x1, 1 – 5 W = x7, 250 mW – 1 W = x10, 55 – 250 mW = x15, <55 mW = x20
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 30 June 2010
E-mail logs to: contest[at]qrparci[dot]org
Mail logs to: ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint, c/o Jeff Hetherington, VA3JFF, 139 Elizabeth St. W., Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada
Find rules at:
http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/1518/118/

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MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint
23:00 UTC 31 May to 03:00 UTC 1 June
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 m
Classes: less 250 mW; 250 mW - 1 W; 1 - 5 W; greater 5W
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power output
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with members; 2 points per QSO with non-member W/VE stations; 4 points per QSO with non-member DX stations

Multipliers: Each state, province or country, once per band
Bonus: multiply total points by 1.25 if xmtr or receiver is homebrew; Bonus: multiply total points by 1.5 if both xmtr and receiver are homebrew
Score Calculation: Total score = bonus multiplier x total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 1 July 2010
E-mail logs to: n8xx[at]arrl[dot]org
Mail logs to: Hank Greeb, N8XX, 5727 11 Mile Rd NE, Rockford, MI 49341, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.qsl.net/miqrpclub/contest.html

Next Week's Contests

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint, 23:00 UTC 31 May to 03:00 UTC 1 June
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 June
DigiFest 04:00 - 12:00 UTC 5 June; 20:00 UTC 5 June to 04:00 UTC 6 June and 12:00 - 20:00 UTC 6 June
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint, 06:00 - 06:29 UTC; 06:30 - 06:59 UTC; 07:00 – 07:29 UTC and 07:30 – 08:00 UTC 5 June
SEANET Contest, 12:00 UTC 5 June to 12:00 UTC 6 June
UKSMG Summer Contest, 12:00 UTC 5 June to 12:00 UTC 6 June
RSGB National Field Day, 15:00 UTC 5 June to 15:00 UTC 6 June
IARU Region 1 CW Field Day, 15:00 UTC 5 June to 14:59 UTC 6 June
Alabama QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 5 June to 04:00 UTC 6 June
DARC 10-Metre Digital Contest, 11:00 - 17:00 UTC 6 June
RSGB 80 m Data Club Championship, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 7 June
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 8 June

This week in History
The week starting Monday 24 May 2010

1844 - Morse sends his first telegraph message, "What hath God wrought!" to his associate 40 miles away.
1844 - Stuart Perry of New York City patented the gasoline engine.
1905 - Japanese navy defeats Russian navy at Tsushima. The first use of naval radiotelephony.
1930 - R.G. Drew, USA, patents transparent cellophane adhesive tape.
1953 - Sir Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norkay climb Mount Everest.

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.
Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.

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